

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 AGR-10 SSO-00 EURE-00 /028 W

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O 261926Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 866

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3450

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS, EAID, CA

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING URGENT REQUEST FROM EXTAFF
FOR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT:

"LAST JUNE, AT THE REQUEST OF THIS DEPARTMENT,
MR. POST KINDLY MADE ARRANGEMENTS THAT PERMITTED
THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO BORROW
FOREST FIRE CONTROL EQUIPMENT FROM THE BOISE
INTER-AGENCY FIRE CENTER AT BOISE, IDAHO.

"ONCE AGAIN, SEVERE FOREST FIRE CONDITIONS
EXIST IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO, WITH SEVERAL
LARGE FIRES OUT OF CONTROL, AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF ONTARIO NOW HAS A FURTHER URGENT NEED TO
BORROW EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU
OF LAND MANAGEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, THE PROVINCE
WISHES TO OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF AN INFRARED SCANNING
AIRCRAFT, ALTHOUGH OTHER FIRE-FIGHTING RESOURCES
MAY ALSO BE NEEDED. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT REIMBURSEMENT
WOULD BE MADE DIRECT BY THE ONTARIO
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE TWO UNITED
STATES AGENCIES.

"THE DIRECTOR OF THE ONTARIO FOREST FIRE
CONTROL BRANCH, MR. W.L. SLEEMAN, HAS ALREADY
APPROACHED THE BOISE INTER-AGENCY FIRE CENTER AND
APPARENTLY THE REQUIRED INFRARED AIRCRAFT CAN BE
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MADE AVAILABLE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS AIR-

CRAFT IS PRESENTLY LOCATED IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, HAVING RECENTLY BEEN WORKING ON SEVERAL FIRES IN THE MINNESOTA-ONTARIO BOUNDARY AREA. HOWEVER, MR. SLEEMAN WAS TOLD THAT A FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD AGAIN BE REQUIRED BEFORE SUCH EQUIPMENT COULD BE PROVIDED.

"IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD AGAIN ARRANGE FOR THE NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS LOAN OF EQUIPMENT AND I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR URGENT ATTENTION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT E.C. WILSON (992-8717) OF THE FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL RELATIONS DIVISION OF THIS DEPARTMENT."

2. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY ENDORSES PROMPT APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST.
DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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